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Inventors:

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1. (amended) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to 5'-untranslated region, a start codon region, a coding region, or a 3'-untranslated region of a nucleic acid molecule encoding MEKK4 of SEQ ID NO: 10, a coding region of a nucleic acid molecule encoding MEKK4 of SEQ ID NO: 3, or an exon region of a nucleic acid molecule encoding MEKK4 of SEQ ID NO: 11, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with one of said regions and inhibits the expression of MEKK4.

B<sup>2</sup>

15. (amended) A method of inhibiting the expression of MEKK4 in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues in vitro with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of MEKK4 is inhibited.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 have been rejected. Claims 11 and 16-20 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of these amendments and the following remarks.